



Tockwith Residents' Association

www.tockwith.net

Report from the Annual General Meeting held on the 9th May 2011 and comment.

Following the BCB campaign during 2008/2009/2010, which ended when BCB suffered a conflagration and subsequently liquidation, things have been much quieter for the TRA. A number of committee officers had resigned their positions after many hours of dedicated work and, therefore before the AGM, the committee held a short meeting to establish who would fill the positions of Chair and Secretary, which had been vacant for some time.

The consensus was that the TRA should for the time being operate in standby mode, and therefore positions only needed to be filled for the sake of formality. Mark Algar was proposed as Chair and Tim Tunnard was proposed as Secretary, Jamie Webb agreed to continue as Treasurer.

The AGM was opened by Mark Algar and only one apology had been received from committee member Stuart McHenry. Approximately 20 villagers in addition to the committee attended the meeting.

The formalities of the previous AGM minutes were completed and the new committee was elected. The new committee is as follows: Mark Algar (Chair), Tim Tunnard (Secretary), Jamie Webb (Treasurer), Jon Kelly, Caroline Alliot, Clive Billeness, Paddy Gastrell and Julie McVeigh.

The TRA was originally formed to protect the village and residents from threats whether due to planning applications for unwelcome development or other activities that might affect the peaceful enjoyment of the village and its environs by villagers.

It was explained that while the TRA would like to also run positive projects in the village the committee believes that its primary role is to continue to try and protect the village and make villagers aware of potential threats. *(It may interest villagers to know that, in the past, there have been planning applications for a stone crushing plant, commercial air activity, and, of course, most recently the chemical waste incinerator. There was even a maggot farm which existed for a number of years close to the village, which, on a bad day, could be smelled from miles away.)*

The committee devoted many hours of their time to opposing BCB's planning application and as there appears to be no current threat they now intend to take a break although they will continue to keep a watching brief. Despite an appeal by the Chairman no new committee members came forward from attendees. However, new members are welcome should they wish to join and take on new projects in the village as and when they arise.

The 3rd item on the agenda was the Chairman's report. As the TRA had been without a chairman there was no specific report to be read so thanks were passed on to the previous Chairmen Paddy Gastrell and Graeme Dent for their hard work and leadership over the last few of years.

The treasurer then gave his report for the year ended the 31st March 2011. A summary of which is below:

	2010/11	2009/10
Income		
Subscriptions:	£160	£3,205
Donations:	£325	£6,605
Fundraising:	£66	£1,738
Total Income:	£551	£11,548
Expenditure		
Professional Consultancy Fees:		£8,800
Publicity:		£4,100
Event Insurance:		£250
Postage:		£115
Stationary:		£39
Sundry:		£187
Total Expenditure:	£0	£13,491
Profit/(Loss) in Period	£551	(£1,943)
Brought Forward	£9,186	£11,129
Carried Forward	£9,736	£9,186
Represented By		
Bank	£9,229	£8,819
PayPal	£507	£346
Cash	£0	£20
Total:	£9,736	£9,186

The final item on the agenda was Any Other Business which also gave an opportunity for villagers to ask questions and enter into a general discussion. Committee member Clive Billeness proposed that, due to the fact the TRA was taking a break, the constitution be changed from the committee having to meet quarterly to having to only meet annually. This was approved.

The TRA were asked to be more transparent with their accounts and show the total cost of the BCB campaign. This was acknowledged by the committee.

The total cost of the BCB campaign was £19,800.00.

From the outset the TRA had been advised that the cost of fighting BCB's planning application through to appeal might cost in excess of £50,000 due to the costs of professional experts and legal counsel. We understand that the organisation NYWAG who are fighting the Allerton Park waste incinerator proposal have been advised to budget for £100,000.

During the campaign the TRA were very conscious about not letting BCB know just how much money it did or did not have as they wanted BCB to believe that our fight would have been as strong as possible with no expense spared. This may however have led to people feeling that the TRA were being secretive.

The motion was passed that the TRA now put the remaining funds into a high interest instant access account ready for future threats to the village.

It was discussed how, when planning applications are received, there is only a very short time in which to lodge an objection and this is why the committee feels that it is important that there are sufficient funds available to immediately obtain the advice of professional experts.

At outset of the BCB campaign the TRA found itself in a very difficult position with limited funds and the need to organise a programme of fund raising. This, as anyone knows who has had experience, is a long hard process particularly as, in the case of BCB, some residents could not believe that a planning authority would allow such a development if it was remotely hazardous.

The TRA were recently approached by the Sports Field Trust. Following the flood which caused significant damage to the sports building and forced its closure they are currently in desperate need of funds. The Sports Field Trust supported the TRA during the BCB action and the committee agreed to help with the rebuilding work in the form of a donation. This facility is important to the village and is used by a significant proportion of it.

Steve Wright of the North Yorkshire Waste Action Group (NYWAG) spoke about the very real threat of a massive municipal waste incinerator being built at Allerton which is only 6 miles from Tockwith. More information can be found at www.nywag.org, the TRA recommend you join their mailing list and help this cause.

Finally, Paddy Gastrell read out a report from the Tockwith Airfield Action Group (TAAG) which is below. People were then thanked for their attendance and the meeting was closed.

TOCKWITH AIRFIELD UPDATE – 7 May 2011

1. Planning Matters.

Planning Enforcement Notices.

You may recall that we reported on the 1st July 2010 that Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) had served a Planning Contravention Notice (PCN) on the airfield operator. The PCN Notice obliged the operator to identify the detail of the activities being carried out on the disused Airfield. The Notice required a response submission to be returned before a specified date. The operator did comply with that requirement.

The purpose of the PCN Notice was to obtain the necessary detail to allow HBC to assess if any activities were being carried out without the necessary Planning Approvals being in place.

To assist HBC in that assessment an extensive file of detail evidence relating to the Airfield activities was collated and submitted to HBC by and on behalf of Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council,

Bilton-in-Ainsty with Bickerton Parish Council, The Tockwith Residents Association and Local Residents.

Following an extensive review of all the information available to them **HBC have issued 6 Enforcement Notices**, each relating to a separate activity that is being carried out on the Airfield. The Notices have been served by HBC because it appears to them that there has been a breach of planning control relative to each activity served. It is alleged that they are being carried out without the necessary Planning Approvals and permissions being in place.

The 6 separate Planning Enforcement Notices were served on the 12th April 2011.

The 6 Notices relate to the following activities:

- Enforcement Notice (Go-Karts)
- Enforcement Notice (Ginetta cars)
- Enforcement Notice (Tyres)
- Enforcement Notice (Buses)
- Enforcement Notice (scrap vehicles)
- Enforcement Notice (Barriers)

If those persons served with a Notice intend to appeal they must register that intention, together with detail of the grounds of their Appeal with the Planning Inspectorate before the 17th May 2011.

If no appeals are registered then the conditions of the Notices must be complied with within 3 months of 17 May 2011.

Full details of the Enforcement Notices can be found on HBC's website

<http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/pages/harrogate-970.aspx?lgnl=100006,200074>

2. Environmental Health Matters.

Noise Abatement Notice

You may recall that we reported on the 9th May 2010 that a Noise Abatement Notice had been served on the airfield operator on 25 March 2010. The Notice related to various airfield activities that were judged to be causing a Statutory Noise Nuisance. The operator subsequently lodged an Appeal against that Notice. The Appeal Court hearing is scheduled for w/c 16 May 2011.

As late as the 18th April 2011 the operator has sought to officially withdraw his Appeal. That request has not been accepted yet. A decision will be made by the Court and Solicitors on or before the 16th May.

If the Appeal is withdrawn then the operator will be required to comply with the conditions set out in the Noise Abatement Notice that was served on the 25th March 2010.

Until a final position is agreed by the Court we have been asked by HBC to reiterate the importance of Residents continuing to monitor and note any airfield noise that adversely affects them. Monitoring forms can be obtained by contacting Alison Tierney, Environmental Health Officer, HBC. Contact detail 01423 556867 or alison.tierney@harrogate.gov.uk

There is a working Group monitoring progress with both the Planning and Environmental issues associated with the Airfield. The Group includes representatives of the two Parish Councils, the TRA and Local Residents allowing for a co-ordinated and effective monitoring of the situation to be made.

We will post a further update on the matters under review following the decision dates of the 16th and 17th May re the Noise Abatement and Planning Notices.